

Annual Childhood Lead Testing Requirements (High Risk Lead Map)

The requirements for testing children's blood for lead are described in [701.342 RSMo](#), and depending on whether a child lives in a high risk area determines how often and when a child should be tested. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) is required by 701.342 RSMo to define the geographic areas that are at high risk of childhood lead poisoning. The system that has been defined in regulation 19 CSR 20-8.030 and used since the early 2000's no longer works as the defined standards are outdated. The Bureau of Environmental Epidemiology has created a new system that adjusts as new data becomes available and allows local entities the opportunity to address the risk factors associated with their jurisdiction.

The new system incorporates six risk factors that have the highest impact on childhood lead poisoning occurrences in Missouri. These factors are: pre-1980 housing rate, lead testing rate, elevated blood lead level (EBL) rate, EBL confirmation rate, occupational EBL rate in adults, and National Priorities List (superfund) lead site or a licensed lead mine are present in the county. The data collected by the U.S. census, blood lead data collected by DHSS, and other pertinent data will be used to compare individual counties against the statewide averages. If the county data shows a risk higher than the statewide average, the county will be considered high risk for that particular factor. Counties that have three or more of these risk factors, or counties that have an EBL rate above the state average and at least one additional risk factor, are considered high risk counties. All other counties are considered general risk.

The counties designation will determine what the blood lead testing requirements are for the children residing in each county, please refer to [701.342 RSMo](#) for details. The data will be evaluated and the map updated on a regular basis. Plans are to provide county specific information, affording the opportunity for local entities to address risk factors in order to reduce risk to children's health.